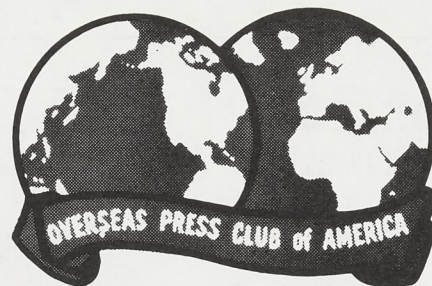


# OPC BULLETIN



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## Steve Yolen calls Latin press victim of government controls



Fairchild correspondent Steve Yolen analyzes the Latin American press scene at his July 7 "At Home With..." Can you find the other Yolen? Hint: He's not far from hard-working Bulletin correspondent Roz Moore.

Photo by Licciardi

Steve Yolen, son of Will and chief South American correspondent for Fairchild Publications, was guest at a warm "At Home" at the Club on July 7.

Yolen, who spent eight years in Puerto Rico, Argentina and Brazil for UPI, and who covered the Chile revolution at the risk of his life, is now based in Brazil where it is no easy task to export news. He said that the news censorship in Brazil has been "a way of life since 1964," when a military dictatorship took over in that country.

Fortunately, the government's censorship program is not coordinated, and the transmission of news often depends on local censors. According to Yolen, the Brazilian government has just signed a decree putting federal censors in the post office to read foreign publications which arrive there via the mails. Theoretically, foreign correspondents have freedom, but they are harassed by bureaucratic policies, called in for tax information, and other-

wise find life difficult.

"There is a lack of access to news sources in Brazil, and a suspicion of journalists," said Yolen. And he voiced regret that South American news does not have high priority or deep interest here in the United States.

"There is only one free press in South America and that is Venezuela," he said.

That continent has passed the point where the United States can dictate policy, especially in the area of human rights but, said Yolen, "there is arrogance in the U.S. toward South America."

How will social problems be improved in these non-democratic countries? More prosperity, says Yolen, more progress, and many programs.

In addition to the large group of Yolen's friends and colleagues who attended the evening were his wife, Marie Lucia, son Raymonde, daughter Lia, and of course, proud dad, former OPC president, Will. —Rosalind Moore

## Florence UNESCO confab finds split on role of free press

The conflicts between governments and the Press over a "new international information" order were brought into sharp focus in Florence in April. The conference was the first round of UNESCO-sponsored discussions on communications policy in preparation for the next UNESCO General Conference in the autumn of 1978.

Jacques Rigaud, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General, who opened the meeting, linked the conference firmly to the basic issues raised at UNESCO's General Conference in Nairobi last November, when a "draft declaration on fundamental principles governing the use of the mass media" was referred back to UNESCO after strong opposition from some Western Governments, and from journalists both of industrialized countries and of the Third World.

The declaration, in effect, recommended greater State control over the media and advocated a governmental right to "correct... erroneous news reports." A new version will be prepared for 1978 by UNESCO's Director-General. In Florence, journalists were invited to analyze evolving policy on: "Imbalances" in the flow of information, the status and responsibilities of journalists, and ways of developing the Third World media.

The value of such an exercise to UNESCO must have been limited by its failure to invite a single Indian journalist (only two from the whole of Asia

were asked). And the debate showed conflicts not simply between Third World governments and the Western media, but between journalists and, in the Third World particularly, between journalists who believe that news should serve the interests of the State, and those who believe the State is better served by media free from control.

Amir Taheri, editor of the *Kayan* group of newspapers in Iran, questioned whether "the row over imbalances in the newsflow is about the Third World not being heard, or the anxieties of Third World governments about their international image. Some governments have muzzled their own Press, and may seek to use our justified concern to increase two-way news traffic to increase their control and shut off international news as well. Some of us are here because we oppose, and fear, a world straightjacket for journalism."

The major Western news agencies came under predictably fierce attack from some Third World journalists but chiefly from politicians. Mustapha Mas-moudi, Tunisia's Secretary of State for Information and also president of the non-aligned countries' council for co-ordination of the mass media, accused the West of exercising a monopoly "which can sometimes resemble an attempt at cultural and even political and economic alienation."

(Continued on page 2)

## Shipler will review Russia for Fall Shop Talk kickoff

Leonid may not talk with Jimmy... but Dave Shipler gets his ear.

As a Moscow correspondent for the *New York Times* for the past two years, award-festooned reporter David K. Shipler has had ample opportunity to query sundry Russian officials. And on Wednesday, August 24, he will kick off "Shop Talk '77-78" with a recount of his experiences.

According to Larry Stessin and Gloria Zukerman, who co-chair the committee in charge, Shipler will discuss the "state of detente," Russian reaction to President Carter, SALT, human rights and working conditions

for foreign correspondents, among other, more sensitive topics.

Shipler told a writer that there was a less collective leadership in Russia now. While not sure why the former president was ousted, Shipler says that Brezhnev "has been accumulating power for the past decade — slowly and regularly. He is a very astute politician." And he doesn't even have to enter primaries.

The date again is Wednesday, August 24. The cocktails and conversation begin at 5:30 at OPC Headquarters in the Hotel Biltmore (19th floor, North elevators). —Chas Schreiber

## A look at 'way back when' - how the OPC got its start

In the 1950-1951 OPC "Who's Who in Foreign Correspondents" — the OPC membership directory as it was then called — tells the story of the first OPC meeting, which may be of interest to new members and be nostalgic to old:

The Overseas Press Club of America was founded on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1939.

On an evening earlier, in the final piping days of mid-world-war peace, three ex-foreign correspondents met in a Greenwich Village tavern to consider forming a weekly luncheon club, comprising their overseas colleagues of former days.

They were the late Samuel Dashiell, former correspondent in Paris, Geneva and Rome, Charles Ferlin, who had worked in Paris and Berlin, and Wythe Williams, who had been bureau chief in various European capitals. Letters were prepared and sent to twenty-five men and women then living in New York and arrangements made with the late Frank Case, Manager of the Hotel Algonquin, to provide a room suitable for an organization meeting.

This meeting took place on Palm Sunday, April 2, and to the surprise of the organizers the news had circulated, so that forty-two persons turned up, all with proper qualifications as later laid down in the Club Constitution, and eager to sign in as Active Founder Members.

Wythe Williams was chosen Chairman of the temporary gatherings. Irene Kuhn and Eugene Lyons were appointed to draft a Constitution. The meeting then adjourned for one week, and the following Easter Sunday, a Constitution was adopted and the Overseas Press Club of America came into being. Wythe Williams was chosen as Founder President, Samuel Dashiell Vice President and Charles Ferlin the Secretary-Treasurer.

Through the efforts of a founder member, the late Bob Davis of the *Sun*, free office space was tendered the club at the Hotel Gladstone. Weekly luncheons were held there for about a year. When the Club membership had grown and luncheon attendance increased to an extent that larger quarters were needed, they were found at the Hotel Belmont Plaza. The second and third Club Presidents during this era were Eugene Lyons and Burnet Hershey.

In 1942, under the presidency of Lowell Thomas, the Overseas Press Club moved into beautiful quarters at the Lotos Club, where it remained until March 15, 1947, under the presidency

of Lucian Kirtland, Wythe Williams (for a second term), and W.W. Chaplin.

On the above date, due to the closing of the Lotos Club Building, the Overseas Press Club moved to the Times Tower, Times Square, where under the presidency of W.W. Chaplin, Bob Considine, Frank Kelley, and the present incumbent, Louis P. Lochner, it still carries on. These quarters are now crowded with the constantly increasing membership, so that, as this book goes to press, the Club is on the search for larger and more commodious headquarters. Beginning with forty-five founder members, the paid-up enrollment is now:

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Active Members | 612 |
| Associate      | 79  |
| Guest          | 33  |
| Total          | 724 |

The Club luncheons and dinners are now held in various well known restaurants in the Times Square neighborhood. They have become a sort of sounding board for foreign correspondents, diplomats, and economic experts on pertinent international problems. Luncheon speakers are widely quoted in the press, and some of the talks have been broadcast by leading radio stations.

(Later issues of the *Bulletin* will tell about the Awards, Annual Dinners, Bulletins, Datelines and other OPC activities in the early days of the Club.)

EAT AND DRINK  
WITH US AT OPC!

## CALENDAR

Wednesday, Aug. 17, 5:30 p.m. — Dorothy Omansky Memorial Service.

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 5:30 p.m. — Talking Shop With... David K. Shipler, N.Y. Times correspondent in Russia and Moscow Bureau Chief, effective Sept. Topic: "Update Russia."

RESERVATIONS: Please call Mary Novick, 687-2430. Reservation cancellations must reach the OPC 24 hours before the event, otherwise members will be charged the announced fee.



## UNESCO confab

(Continued from page 1)

The sense of cultural dependence on the Western media — whether expressed as concern about the underdeveloped state of journalism in the Third World or as “cultural imperialism” of a deliberate kind practised by the West — came through as the basic issue of the conference. “We are agreed on the ‘information gap’,” said *Le Figaro’s* Jean D’Ormesson. “But what do we do about it? Governments and journalists have different perspectives. Do we marshal Western resources to help the Third World develop its communications, or would this be a form of neocolonialism? Or do we focus on national agencies and regional pools, with the risk that many will inevitably be government-controlled and that one ‘monopoly’ will be substituted for another? And how, in increasing the flow, do we maintain the chief asset of news — its credibility? We need mutual esteem, because if the Third World increased its flow of information and the Western press failed to print it, progress would be slender.”

From both sides of the development fence, journalists warned against confusing the need to increase the two-way flow of the news, with demands for more “balance” in the content. No government, several insisted, is inclined to view criticism of its policies as balanced. The point was unwittingly underlined by the only Indian present, from the Rome embassy, who stated bluntly that “one should report only what is true, pleasant and beneficial.”

Policies formed at governmental level to close the information gap were viewed by most journalists at Florence with considerable scepticism. Kinji Kawamura, formerly of the *Asahi Shimbun* and now running Japan’s Foreign Press Centre, quoted an old Japanese proverb: “Don’t tamper with the horns of the cow and kill the cow,” arguing for the maximum independence of the media from any government control.

Hamid Barrada, of *Jeune Afrique*, found “confusions in the argument. Some Third World revolt against the Western information monopoly is legitimate; but some is politically motivated. The core of the ‘new international information order’ is that if information is more developed in the West, it is frankly because liberty is more developed there. Unless there is better access to news, and freedom to publish, technical and training solutions are an illusion. You cannot manufacture journalists; you can only produce information personnel.”

— Rosemary Righter  
IPI Report, April, 1977

## Obituary



**Dorothy Lindner Omansky**, former magazine executive and OPC Governor, died July 18 at Mt. Sinai Hospital. She was 72.

Mrs. Omansky had been a reporter and editor for the Hearst newspapers; a field editor of *Good Housekeeping*; and advertising director for *Polly Pigtails* and *Calling All Girls*, two Parents Magazine publications.

In 1954, she joined the New York City Office of Civil Defense, and moved on to the New York City Department of Social Services where she remained until her retirement in 1972.

Mrs. Omansky was the widow of the late Jacob Omansky. She is survived by a daughter, Susan Omansky, and a son, Anthony Kalman, of a previous marriage.

There will be a memorial service at the Overseas Press Club on Wednesday, Aug. 17, at 5:30 p.m.

BRING  
A FRIEND  
TO LUNCH

## LETTER

To the Editor:

Many years ago I wrote a tribute to *Ben Grauer* to celebrate his famous flair for reporting almost everything from everywhere on radio. John Crosby printed it in his column in the old New York *Herald Tribune*. When I became an OPC member and met Ben, he told me how much he had enjoyed it. Perhaps you would like to share it with readers of this Bulletin.

*All hail the ubiquitous Grauer!  
The man I'm sure to see  
Regardless of whatever hour  
I tune in my TV.*

*I want some advice from a panel  
On problems of the day.  
I get the appropriate channel:  
There's Grauer holding sway.*

*I'm anxious to watch Toscanini  
Conducting a symphony;  
Before me appears like a genie  
The face of one B.G.*

*Politicos meet in Chicago,  
Pick Adlai and Eisenhower;  
Who's there to describe the farrago?  
You guessed it — it's Ben Grauer.*

*The man's energy is atomic,  
Why, do you know, one day  
They even made Grauer a comic:  
He sang with Bob and Ray.*

*"This must be the limit." I'm gleeing,  
"He's surely reached his peak."  
But lo and behold, he's emceeing  
A baby's birth last week!*

*I guess I will never avoid him.  
No matter where or when:  
Ich weiss nicht, was soll es bedeuten,  
Dass ich so grawig ben.*

Today, like all of Ben's admirers in the OPC and elsewhere, I am *traurig* that he has left us.

— Gene Sosin

## WHO, WHAT, WHERE

By GRACE NAISMITH

**PUBLISHING:** **Matt Bassity** had an article in the Sunday *Daily News* on the stockpiling of oil ... **Betty Wason** is now a regular contributor to the Washington *Star's Home/Life* Magazine. She also has had three articles recently in *Dynamic Maturity*, three features coming out in booklet form for A.I.M., a subsidiary of AARP (American Association for Retired Persons). Subject: Singles. And a feature for August *Family Circle* and another for Washington *Calendar Magazine* ... **Alan Levy** has two cover stories on Sophia Loren — one in the new bimonthly, *Bijour*: The Magazine of the Movies; the other in *McCall's*. This brings his cover stories on Sophia to five, previous ones appearing in *McCall's* and two in *Good Housekeeping*. He was in *The New York Times* in July, too ... **Auren Uris**, managing editor of *The Research Institute of America, Inc.* has had a book just published by Thomas Y. Crowell: *The Blue Book of Broad Minded Business Behavior*, which doesn't explain that it is about casual dress, women execs, and sex in the office ... **Jack O'Dwyer's** annual *Directory of Corporate Communications* is now available, a must for all PR/Communications people. (A copy at OPC for viewers.)

**TRAVELING:** **Jack Galub**, leaving his SCM electric typewriter behind, has gone to Denver to work on articles for **Beth Waterfall's Mother's Manual**, *Sports Afield*, *Glamour Magazine* and *Today's Jagger* ... **Fritz Henle** and his assistant Marguerite Henle, are in Europe. There will be a retrospective Show of his work, including 25 color prints of the Caribbean and a display of Pablo Casals photographs. The Show will hang in the old German castle at Wolfenbittel near Braunschweig. Then he and Marguerite will photograph in Spain, starting with Barcelona and Vendrell, places where Casals spent many years of his youth.

**NEW LOOK:** **William J. Clew**, retired managing editor of *The Hartford Courant*, has been appointed to the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission by Governor Ella Grasso. The Commission is charged with enforcing the state's Right to Know law. Clew fills a vacancy caused by the death of Herbert Brucker, retired editorial page editor of *The Courant* ... **William H.A. Carr** has joined **Jack Raymond's** public relations consultant firm, as an account executive. A new OPC member?

**SPEAKER:** **Hamilton Fish, Sr.**, prolific writer and TV speaker, made three talks in Boston in one week in July.

**HONORS:** **Edward L. Bernays** and **Doris F. Bernays** awarded Doctors of Laws degrees by Babson College.

**WANTED:** Free-lance sports writer to write one feature a week on American sport for the Danish magazine, *Super-Sport*. Ole Kramme is the editor, Norregade 45/1, DK-1165 Copenhagen K, Denmark.

**WRITERS CONFERENCE:** Hosted by John F. Kennedy Space Center, NASA. Place: Frank Wolfe's Beachside Motel, Cocoa Beach, Fla. Time: Sept-1-3. Information: Hugh W. Harris, John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla. 32899. Registration fee: \$22. Timing of the meeting coincide with the launch of the second Voyager spacecraft to Jupiter and Saturn.

**PARADE LEADER:** **Karl Detzer** was grand marshal of the July 4 parade in Leland, Mich., taking the place of a neighbor, Gen. Mark Clark, who was ill. Detzer wore his World War II uniform, which fitted “magnificently,” he says. Detzer, longtime *Reader's Digest* roving editor is “only 86” and can read only with a closed circuit TV reading machine, which pulls six point up to 120, but enables him to read, he says, with pleasure, the OPC “Who, What, Where” column.

**THOSE GREMLINS**, who play with this column between typewriter and *Bulletin* publication, have deleted the Walter from **Walter Henry Nelson's** name, changed the name of his London partner to Prittle from Terence Prittie. Also Mary Hemingway's book, *How It Was* to read “Hot It Was.” True, her autobiography sizzles, but when ordering the book, ask for “How It Was.”

**POSTER CONTEST:** **Jim Ownby**, Honolulu radio personality, wants the world to know about his “Good Bears of the World” clubs which give teddy bears to children in hospitals. First prize for posters is \$100, says **Helen Alpert**, who says *Family Circle* and other magazines are supporting the contest. Deadline Aug. 15, so rush for information from Jim at P.O. Box 8236, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815. (You could just send money for a teddy bear.)

**LEADER:** **Norman Lobsenz** headed a non-fiction workshop at the annual seminar of the California Writers Association at Stanford University in July. Lobsenz and his wife Dorothy, former secretary of American Association of Journalists and Authors in N.Y. now live in L.A. Lobsenz began a new column in July *McCall's* called “Women and Men” with a collaborator, Marcia Lasswell, marriage counselor. He's also signed a contract for a new book with Doubleday. Three guesses it's about marriage.

**PHOTO ESSAY:** **Charles E. Rotkin** has a six-page spread in *Smithsonian*, that handsome publication, on ferries. Rotkin reports that he “didn't get seasick on the flat bottom barge ferries across the Ohio River, but nearly became polluted in San Francisco Bay, not by the waters in the Bay, but from the very active bar on board the ferry.”

**HONORED:** **Fay Wells** of Storer Broadcasting concluded her career as the first full-time broadcaster for radio and TV reporting from the White House, and the American Newspaper Women's Club in Washington gave her a lavish reception. Storer is closing their coverage of the White House on site. Fay will begin a wide-ranging series of travels and activities, starting with involvement in a Milestone of Flight Event in which the Smithsonian Institution is participating — the last Transcontinental Race of Women Pilots (previously the Powder Puff Derby).

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